

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

<b>Project Title:</b> Hidden Valley Pothole		<b>Project No.</b> 09-408
<b>Region/GMU:</b> 4/43B	<b>HPC:</b>	
<b>Project Type:</b> Water development (clean out sediment/increase capacity)		
<p><b>Project Description:</b> This water development in the Trigo Mountains needs to be cleaned out in order to remove accumulated sediment and increase the pothole's storage capacity. Currently the catchment is approximately 75 % full off sediment and debris. This affects the storage capacity and the pothole's ability to hold water for bighorn sheep during the dry season. This water is not classified as a critical water; therefore, when it goes dry the Department does not haul water to the pothole. The sediment and debris need to be removed so that the pothole can catch and store water at maximum capacity, during brief windows of high flow, providing water for bighorn sheep throughout the entire dry season.</p> <p><b>Wildlife Species to Benefit:</b> Bighorn sheep, quail, dove, and non game birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians etc.</p> <p><b>Possible Funding Partners:</b> Local Sportsman's Groups and AGFD Staff to provide labor</p>		
<b>Implementation Schedule:</b> <b>Beginning:</b> Fall 2010 <b>Completed:</b> Fall 2010	<b>NEPA Compliance:</b> (if applicable) NA <b>Completed:</b> Yes ____ No ____ <b>Projected Completion Date:</b>	

**PROJECT FUNDING**

<b>SBG Funds Requested:</b> \$ 15,000
<b>Cost Share Funds:</b>
<b>Total Project Costs:</b> \$ 15,000

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

<b>Applicant:</b> Alicia Allen <b>Telephone:</b> 928-345-3113	<b>Address:</b> 9140 E 28 <sup>th</sup> Street Yuma, AZ 85365
<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
<b>Coordinated with:</b> Ed Jahrke	<b>Date:</b> August 25, 2009
<b>Applicant's signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**  
 Game Branch  
 5000 West Carfree Highway

(revised 6-05-2007)

**Phoenix, AZ**

**WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC?**      YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X\_\_\_\_\_

**HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?**  
No/No

**NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

This water development in the Trigo Mountains needs to be cleaned out in order to remove accumulated sediment and increase the pothole's storage capacity. Currently the catchment is approximately 75 % full off sediment and debris. This affects the storage capacity and the pothole's ability to hold water for bighorn sheep during the dry season. This water is not classified as a critical water; therefore, when it goes dry the Department does not haul water to the pothole. The sediment and debris need to be removed so that the pothole can catch and store water at maximum capacity, providing water for bighorn sheep throughout the entire dry season. This region receives very little annual rainfall. Precipitation usually occurs during Monsoon or winter storms. Several months may pass with little to no precipitation. The catchment must be able to catch and store large amounts of water during flood events to maintain water through the dry months

This project was started in January 2009, where AGFD staff and volunteers from the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society spend multiple days removing sediment from the 50ft deep pothole. 6 vertical feet of material were removed at that time; however, the remainder of the sediment needs to be removed. Additionally, sediment accumulated in the check dam above the pothole needs to be removed to promote the ability of water flowing into the pothole while reducing new sediment deposits.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

- Improve water availability for bighorn sheep, quail, dove, and non-game birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians etc.
- Improve bighorn sheep survival by providing much needed water during dry season
- Increase current water developments storage capacity to reduce costs associated with water level checks and maintenance.

**PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

- Use helicopter to fly project volunteers and equipment up to project location
- Manual removal of accumulated sediment in pothole
- Manual removal of the check dam above pothole

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Trigo Mountains  
GPS coordinates: N 33° 13.420' W 114° 32.629'

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):** U.S. Government/Military Land-Yuma Proving Grounds

**IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT? N/A**

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:** Sonoran Desertscrub

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

- Helicopter Time (Ferry equipment and personnel into and out of wilderness area)-\$15,000

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

Historically, local area sportsman groups including but not limited to the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society and the Yuma Rod and Gun Club have provided a great deal of volunteer labor for these types of projects when available. Actual participation, number of participants and days participated may vary based on the project schedule and the schedules of volunteers. At \$14.14 per hour each 10 hour volunteer day will be valued at \$141.40 in labor.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:** The district wildlife manager for GMU 43B would be responsible for monitoring the catchment and submitting future maintenance requests as needed.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:** If needed, the development branch at Arizona Game and Fish would provide maintenance for this water catchment.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

Alicia Allen, Arizona Game and Fish Department

## **ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

**PROJECT NAME:** Hidden Valley Tank

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**  
**Ed Jahrke Coordinated on August 25, 2009**
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**  
☒ 2-4   ☐ 4-6   ☐ 6-8   ☐ 8-10   ☐ 10-12   ☐ 12-14   ☐ 14-16   ☐ >16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**  
☐ YES (please complete #5 below)   ☒ NO (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**  
Name of water source:  
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank, etc.):  
Ownership of water source:  
Distance in miles from project:
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?**   ☐ YES   ☒ NO However, targeted wildlife provides a source population for sheep transplants to other areas.
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument, etc). If private land, list landowner.**  
  
This project is located in very steep, rugged terrain, which will require the use of a helicopter to transport material and staff to the project site to complete the project. The project location is located on the Yuma Proving Grounds and as such the project will need to be coordinated with YPG scheduling and range control to schedule the project on dates where it will not interfere with military operations and when clearance will be granted by YPG.
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**  
Type of access (mark one):   ☐ 2x4 vehicles   ☐ 4x4 only   ☒ foot, horseback, or **helicopter** only\*\*  
\*\*If foot access only: Distance in miles   Approx. hiking time:  
  
-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands?   ☐ YES   ☒ NO  
  
-- Please describe any restrictions to public access: Pothole is located in steep, rugged terrain on military lands. Prior clearance is required.

- 9) Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**

Refer to itemized use of funds list

- 10) Was a site visit completed?**   X Yes   \_\_\_No   If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

**Development Branch January 2009**

TOPO! map printed on 08/25/09 from "waypoint sheep waters.tpo"

